

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/644,960	OTSUKI, KOICHI	
	Examiner Lamson D Nguyen	Art Unit 2861	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_\_.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19.
3.  The drawings filed on 21 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  IDENTIFYING INDICIA such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>07/13/04</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                               | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

***Allowable Subject Matter***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- The primary reasons for allowance for claims 1-13 and 18-19 are the inclusions of the limitations of a recording method comprising the steps of performing an edge portion process in which to record dots on a main scan line at a leading edge or trailing edge of a printing medium, wherein ink drops are ejected from at least a portion of a recessed portion nozzle group comprising nozzles that are situated facing the recessed portion, while at least one of the leading edge and trailing edge is positioned over an opening of the recessed opening and executing, in the edge portion process, a plurality of times a first unit scan operation in which one or more main scannings are performed to record dots on a plurality of main scan lines that include two or more main scan lines adjacent to one another, and performing an edge portion process sub-scan by a first feed distance at the interval between first unit scan operations. It is these limitations, either alone or combined as claimed, that have not been found, taught, or suggested by prior art.
  
- The primary reasons for allowance for claims 14-17 are the inclusions of the limitations of a recording device and a computer program product comprising a platen having a recessed portion disposed extending in the direction of main scanning at a location facing at least some of the

nozzles and a control unit comprising an edge process unit for performing an edge portion process in which, where dots are to be recorded on a main scan line at a leading edge or trailing edge of a printing medium, the edge process unit is operable to cause at least a portion of a recessed portion nozzle group comprising nozzles situated facing the recessed portion to eject ink drops, while at least one of the leading edge and trailing edge is positioned over an opening of the recessed portion, and wherein during the edge portion process, the edge process unit executes multiple times a first unit scan operation in which one or more main scannings are performed to record dots on a plurality of main scan lines that include two more main scan lines adjacent to one another, and performs an edge portion process sub-scan by a first feed distance at the interval between the first unit scan operations. It is these limitations, either alone or combined as claimed, that have not been found, taught, or suggested by prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Rasmussen et al. (6,808,259) teach a drive shaft located upstream of a printhead and having a first radius over a central length and a second radius less than the first radius at a first recess and a second recess, each said recess being peripheral to the central length and extending around a circumference of the drive shaft.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lamson D Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-2259. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Talbott can be reached on 571-272-1934. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LAMSON NGUYEN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

1/20/09